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INEZ PRYER (SISTER MARY CARMEL)

JULY 1 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2860]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 2860) for the relief of Inez Pryer (Sister Mary Carmel) having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Inez Pryer (Sister Mary Carmel). The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 50-year-old native and citizen of Australia who last entered the United States as a visitor on October 6, 1946. She is a Catholic nun and is in charge of a group of nuns at the Catholic Mission Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, Warren, Mich.

A letter dated August 22, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

AUGUST 22, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2860) for the relief of Inez Pryer (Sister Mary Carmel).

The bill would provide that Inez Pryer (Sister Mary Carmel) shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of its enactment, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien who is a Catholic religious nun and a citizen of Australia, was born on December 6, 1901, at Nathalia, Victoria, Australia. She entered the United States at the port of New York on October 6, 1946, when she was admitted as a temporary visitor for a period of 6 months under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. It appears that her purpose in coming to this country was to assist in organizing a new community of sisters in Detroit, Mich. She was granted extensions of her temporary stay until April 6, 1948. A further extension was denied since it appeared that she desired to remain here indefinitely. Subsequently, however, upon representations from her superiors that she had been invited, because of her unusual qualifications for the work, to assume the temporary role of superior of a group of candidates who wished to join a congregation of missionary nuns which was being established for a special work in the Far East, and that her task had not yet been completed, she was granted an extension of her stay from time to time until March 31, 1951.

Since her arrival in this country the alien has been in charge of a group of nuns at the Catholic Mission Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, Warren, Mich. It appears that she has been in missionary work for the past 28 years and served in China from 1938 until 1945. She has no income and her expenses are the responsibility of the Missionary Society and Monsignor De Barry, under whose direction she is serving. Monsignor De Barry stated that it could not be stated definitely when the Missionary Society of Sisters would be sufficiently strong to continue without the alien's direction.

The quota of Australia, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for many years and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. In the absence of special legislation she will not be able to remain in the United States for permanent residence.

Whether in this case the general provisions of the immigration laws should be waived presents a question of legislative policy concerning which this Department prefers not to make any recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 2860) should be enacted.

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